

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2003.

Claims 1-24 currently are pending.

The Examiner has objected to the specification on the basis that the Examiner contends that the specification does not include an Abstract. Applicants note that the printed publication of the present application does contain an Abstract; however, for convenience, Applicants have reproduced the Abstract for entry by the Examiner.

Applicants have also supplied herewith corrected Figures 1 and 2 which have been amended to correct a typographical error with respect to the description contained in the box identified with figure legend 112 and 112a. As described in paragraph [0016] of the printed publication, box 112 is a heat control module and not a vessel with powdered acid. Changes have been made to the drawings to properly denote the heat control module. Entry of the corrected drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, based on the Examiner's assertion that the dialyzers require a semi-permeable membrane. Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 23 to provide a semi-permeable membrane in each dialyzer. In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully submit this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-5, and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for omitting an essential element. More specifically, the Examiner contends that the independent claim

I should recite that there is a source of dialysate that is provided to the second dialysate inlet at a temperature lower than a temperature of the heated dialysate. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify this point; however, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that there is only one source of dialysate fluid, which is recited in claim 1, and from this single source, two streams are created, one that goes to the heat control module and then to the first dialysate inlet and another that goes to the second dialysate inlet at a lower temperature.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated:

September 18, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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